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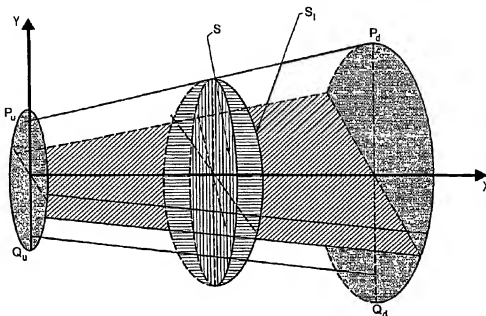
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(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR OPTIMIZATION OF VESSEL CENTERLINES



(57) Abstract: Methods are provided for optimizing a vessel centerline in a digital image. For instance, a method includes provid-  
ing a digital image of a vessel wherein said image comprises a plurality of intensities corresponding to a domain of points in a D  
-dimensional space, initializing a centerline comprising a plurality of points in the vessel (step 20), determining a cross section of the  
vessel at each point in the centerline (step 21), evaluating a center point for each cross section of the vessel (step 22), and determining  
a refined centerline from the center points of each cross section (step 23).

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